

# Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

## Conservation Status Rank Summary

September 24, 2024

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#)

### Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
<b>Rarity</b>					
Range Extent	2023-12-18	Y: 189772.4 km <sup>2</sup>	3.930	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy	2023-12-18	9301   4km <sup>2</sup> cells	4.810	MTNHP Modeling	None
Number of Occurrences			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Population Size	2023-12-18	[1200, 1800]	2.360	USFWS SSA 2022	2022 Species Status Assessment has 727 bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 1095 in the Northern Divide Ecosystem, and about 60 in the Cabinet-Yak Ecosystem. As the GYE spans both Montana and Wyoming a range of 1200-1800 is probably a good estimate
# of Occurrences in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Environmental Specificity			-		Factor not used in ranking.
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: $((3.93 \times 1) + (4.81 \times 2) + (2.36 \times 2)) / 5 = 3.65$					
<b>Trends</b>					
Short-term Trend	2023-12-18	102.0%	0.000	USFWS SSA 2022	GYE: 1.003 to 1.022, NCDE 1.023, CYE, 1.017
Long-term Trend	2023-12-18	-150.0%	-0.220	MTHP Range	Species currently is found in around 50% of its historic range
Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores: $((0.00 \times 2) + (-0.22 \times 1)) = -0.22$					

## Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
<b>Threats</b>					
<b>Overall Threat Impact</b>		Medium	3.670		None
<b>Intrinsic Vulnerability</b>	2008-09-15	Highly vulnerable	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Factor not used in ranking. Methodology: NS (2003)   Original Score: A
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: <b>( 3.67 ) = 3.67</b>					

### Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
<b>Residential &amp; Commercial Development</b>	2023-12-18	Low	Restricted	Slight	High	Habitat loss due to increasing development of
<b>Agriculture &amp; Aquaculture</b>	2023-12-18	Low	Restricted	Slight	High	Livestock depredation resulting in mortality
<b>Transportation &amp; Service Corridors</b>	2023-12-18	Low	Large	Slight	High	Road and railroad mortality
<b>Human Intrusions &amp; Disturbance</b>	2023-12-18	Low	Pervasive	Slight	High	Disturbance and mortality from encounters
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 0 - High, 0 - Medium, 4 - Low Overall Threat Impact* = Medium						

\*See [Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species](#) for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

## Conservation Status Rank Calculation

### Raw score

Rarity:  $(3.65 \times 70\%)$  + Threats:  $(3.67 \times 30\%)$  + Trends:  $(-0.22)$  = 3.44

Calculated Rank: S3

<b>Accepted Rank</b>	S3
<b>Date Approved</b>	2024-09-29
<b>Approval Authority</b>	Montana Species of Concern Committee
<b>Rank Justification</b>	Species is uncommon but is now widely distributed in much of western and central Montana and is increasing in abundance in areas between core habitats. It faces low level threats from development, habitat degradation, and other anthropogenic impacts.

## Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.

[https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana\\_State\\_Rank\\_Criteria\\_20211201.pdf](https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf)

Montana Field Guide Species Account:

<https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=AMAJB01020>

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:

<https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=AMAJB01020>

## Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

### Summary of Information Availability

Data to assess status are available

### Summary of Information Needs

No additional information are needed at this time.

## Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Residential & Commercial Development - 1	2023-12-18	None	Expert Opinion	Restricted	Slight	High	Habitat loss due to increasing development of urban areas and exurban areas. This includes direct loss of habitat and increased removal due to conflict.
Agriculture & Aquaculture - 2	2023-12-18	None	None	Restricted	Slight	High	Livestock depredation resulting in mortality
Transportation & Service Corridors - 4	2023-12-18	None	None	Large	Slight	High	Road and railroad mortality
Human Intrusions & Disturbance - 6	2023-12-18	None	None	Pervasive	Slight	High	Disturbance and mortality from encounters